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VIDELA RETURNS FROM MEETING WITH PINOCHET

PY202355Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb--Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla arrived here at 1915 local time (2215 GMT) from Puerto Montt, where he met his Chilean counterpart, Augusto Pinochet.

V CORPS COMMANDER PRAISES TROOP PROFICIENCY

PY180246Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Neuquen, 17 Feb--Maj Gen Antonio Vaquero, V Corps commander, noted today the high degree of training of the troops he inspected during an unscheduled visit to the military garrisons in Junin de los Andes, a town located in the Andean mountains about 280 km southwest from Neuquen and less than 100 km from the Chilean border.

In a statement to LU 19, Radio La Voz del Comahue, located in the town of Cipolletti, Rio Negro, the high-ranking military officer said that the objective of his visit was to inspect the combat proficiency of the military garrisons ('under his jurisdiction').

General Vaquero was accompanied by Col Nestor Ruben Castelli, deputy commander of the 6th Mountain Infantry Brigade staff. During the tour of inspection a vehicle control operation and combat exercises were carried out.

TERRORISTS OPEN FIRE ON DEFENSE MINISTER'S HOME

PY171407Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1352 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb--Police sources reported today that unknown persons have machinegunned the facade of Defense Minister Jose Maria Klix's home here, wounding a policeman who was on guard. The same sources also reported a bomb attack which totally destroyed a chalet under construction, belonging to high military government official Ricardo Yofre, under secretary general of the presidency.

HERALD WELCOMES TODMAN REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

PY201805Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 20 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Editorial: "Human Rights and the U.S."]

[Text] Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs Terence Todman's address at the Centre for Inter-American Relations in New York on Tuesday was welcome evidence that the U.S. administration is, on the whole, aware of the pitfalls in the path of any determined international campaign on behalf of the human rights of others. Todman's appeal for greater moderation, realism, and balance was wise, although it may not be heeded by all U.S. officials who come into contact with the governments they disapprove of. Unfortunately, many pro-rights activists, both in the U.S. administration and outside it, are more concerned with asserting themselves, advancing their careers, or expressing their hostility towards political ideas they personally dislike than with the fate of the large number of people in the jails and torture-chambers of foreign dictatorships.

The human rights movement, with its powerful emotional content, inevitably makes a strong appeal to the self-indulgent and the neurotic, who are more interested in the act of protesting than in the possible impact of their protests on distant countries about which they know virtually nothing.

Jimmy Carter's administration has not made itself very popular in the presidential palaces of Latin America with its concern for human rights, although it has won a reputation for itself among the victims, real or imagined, of government action. This may seem a worthwhile reversal of the state of affairs that prevailed in the past, when anti-Americanism was endemic among the general public in much of Latin America and Washington's only allies--if not friends--were in power. But it has its limitations. Influence with governments is, in realistic terms, usually worth far more than momentary popularity with any sectors of public opinion, and is the only factor that can be used to bolster respect for the dignity of the powerless.

As Todman, at least, is aware, blanket condemnations of Latin American governments can serve no useful purpose. In every country there are many factors that must be taken into account by anyone attempting to understand why certain things happen. Self-indulgent indignation on the part of ignorant or partisan officials of foreign governments is of little use in an effort to make as many people as possible pay more than lipservice to the standards the U.S. Government would like to see applied. In every society there are forces that realize the dangers of disregarding the rights of others and are aware that statesmanlike tolerance of dissent serves the national interest far better than sterile oppression. These forces exist inside many governments. Helping them win their arguments with the less sophisticated will help to save lives, lessen human suffering, and extend real--and not merely rhetorical--respect for human dignity, the only acceptable objectives of any human rights campaign. Weakening these forces by indiscriminate diatribes against entire governments or even countries is bound to be counter-productive.

'PREVENTIVE CUSTODY' OF MRS PERON ORDERED

PY201625Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Criminal Judge Norberto A. Giletta has ordered the preventive custody of Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, who is charged with fraud against the Solidarity Crusade. The judge also ordered an embargo on the former president's assets of 130 million Argentine pesos. Judge Giletta ruled Mrs Peron guilty of withdrawing funds from the Crusade and depositing them in her personal accounts. Mrs Peron was not able to explain the use of these funds.

INTERIOR MINISTRY RELEASES NAMES OF 423 DETAINEES

PY172331Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb--The Interior Ministry released this afternoon a new list of 423 persons who are being held at the disposal of the executive branch. The list is of those being held in the Coronda jail, near Santa Fe, as of 14 February 1978. So far the Interior Ministry has released three lists totalling 1,351 detainees being held at the disposal of the executive branch.

BANZER WARNS AGAINST 'POLITICAL CARNIVAL'

PY172001Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1645 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 17 Feb--President Banzer stated here that on the centennial next year of the war between the Bolivian-Peruvian Confederation and Chile, "it is appropriate for Bolivia to be democratically united around its institutions." At a press conference held last night with young professionals of his country, General Banzer added that the Bolivian landlocked status "is not only a national problem, but is also a challenge to the Latin American conscience."

Referring to the elections called for by his government, which will be held on 9 July 1978, he said that the transfer of power to civilians had been decided without domestic or foreign pressure. General Banzer said that it is also appropriate for the armed forces "to be free from the responsibility of government, so that civilians can shoulder the responsibility." After making a call to avoid a "political carnival," he expressed his opposition to continuing in power, and said that after 5 and 1/2 years as president he will leave that responsibility.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC], however, criticized Banzer for holding both the presidency and command of the armed forces simultaneously, because "in Bolivia this situation involves a totalitarian state." The PDC added that that totalitarian power tends to perpetuate itself through the "preset election of the officially supported candidate, with all the benefits of government." That official candidate for the presidency is Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, the only candidate designated so far. The PDC proposes as alternative Gen Rene Bernal, President Banzer's former defense minister, who has not yet been officially proclaimed.

MIR LEADER SAYS UNIFIED LEFTIST FRONT CAN WIN

PY181755Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Feb 78 PY

[Summary] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] firmly maintains its aim of forming a single great leftist front which will participate in the democratization process. The forming of the front will let it be shown that the leftist parties can win the elections on 9 July. This statement has been made by MIR leader Jaime Paz, who also said that the traditional political parties would have to be excluded from that single leftist front. He also said that the people should not let themselves be confused by political alliances which are not in agreement with the hopes of all citizens.

SILES ZUAZO SCHEDULED TO RETURN FROM EXILE

PY181558Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1448 GMT 18 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Feb--Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo will arrive in La Paz tonight from Caracas, taking advantage of the government's amnesty, it was announced here today. Siles Zuazo is one of the principal figures of national politics and was president from 1956-60. The former president is emerging as the leading personality of the national political opposition.

ITAMARATY VIEWS OBJECTIVES OF FRG VISIT

PY180127Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpts] Brazil and the FRG are both interested in taking the occasion of President Ernesto Geisel's visit to the FRG for the two chiefs of state to sign a document of the highest significance. This will be designed to consolidate a partnership almost unique in the world, one which reached its peak with the signing of the FRG-Brazilian nuclear agreement in 1975 and which continues to develop steadily.

Making this announcement yesterday, a high Itamaraty source noted that the document could be a broad agreement or it could more likely be a joint declaration signed by Presidents Ernesto Geisel and Walter Scheel. He also said that unlike countries like the Netherlands and Sweden, there is a clear image of Brazil in the FRG to the point that even FRG leftwing parties "already have a correct view of Brazil." In view of this, in the document to be signed Brazil intends to consolidate its image "as a serious, well-administered country" which is already considered a valid partner in the international political scene.

The high Itamaraty source pointed to the contrast posed by this trip with those made in 1976 by the Brazilian president to France and Great Britain, when our major concern was to carry greater influence as a partner and to improve our image in those countries. Furthermore, Brazil then had a large "deficit" both in its trade balance and in its balance of payments, and there was a high inflation rate in 1975.

He reported that the Brazilian-FRG joint commission on economic cooperation, which was held in little regard until last year in view of the rather "provincial" work it was carrying out, will undergo a complete transformation and in the future will be primarily concerned with trade between the two countries.

In addition to this commission, there are two more (one on scientific cooperation and another on technological and technical cooperation) which are functioning properly. While approximately 400 Brazilian postgraduates go to the FRG every year, 150 Germans--including university professors and special advisers for bilateral cooperation projects in approximately 40 sectors--come to Brazil every year.

In conclusion, the source said both parties are quite satisfied with the projects which they are currently undertaking. Brazil's major goal in the social sector will be selling the idea that its developed areas are like archipelagoes surrounded by several less developed regions which endure serious social problems, especially the Northeast and Amazonia. Brazil will seek to convince the FRG again to provide the aid for development which is traditionally granted to less developed countries, at symbolic annual interest rates and lengthy grace and repayment periods.

AZEREDO REPORTEDLY REBUFFED NOGUES' REQUESTS

PY171744Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 9 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--In response to the new attack by Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues, Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira yesterday gave another warning to the Paraguayan Government to fulfill its commitments with Brazil without forcing the Geisel government to make new concessions, either regarding the construction of the Itaipu hydroelectric dam or any other sector of cooperation between the two countries.

Silveira's warning is included in the speech he made at Itamaraty, at the end of Nogues' visit, quoting President Geisel's words from a speech made in Asuncion in 1975, when Geisel referred to "both countries' respect for the provisions of international relations they have signed and the high principles by which they conduct their relations."

Referring to that quote, diplomatic observers interpreted A. Azevedo da Silveira's speech as proof that Nogues had failed in his trip to Brasilia, where he came to look for new advantages for his country in view of the Brazilian and Argentine interests in using the Parana River.

In a diplomatic action which is also in the interest of Itamaraty, the governments of Brazil and Paraguay tried to conceal the failure of Nogues' mission by formalizing the agreement between the two countries settling the respective sovereignties over the 67 islands and banks located on the border stretch of the Paraguay River and declaring the establishment of the general commission of cooperation between Brazil and Paraguay, instituted in 1975.

Instead of yielding to the offensive of his Paraguayan counterpart, however, Azevedo da Silveira counterattacked by asking the Paraguayan Government to fulfill the international commitments signed with Brazil. Nevertheless, the Brazilian foreign minister promised Nogues that Brazil will grant technical and financial support to Paraguayan domestic development projects, as long as they do not involve any deals.

NAVY MINISTER DENIES SHIP DEAL WITH ITALY

PYL71148Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 23 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Navy Minister Adm Geraldo de Azevedo Henning denied rumors yesterday that the navy would be purchasing a fleet of Italian gunboats equipped with missiles to patrol the coast.

According to the rumors, this negotiation is being carried out by former President Janio Quadros, representative of the Italian Italcraft shipyard. Minister Henning said that right now the navy is only negotiating with Great Britain for the purchase of a fleet of six frigates and three submarines, some of which are already operating in Brazil. In addition, he added, "with the current reequipment plan the Rio de Janeiro shipyard is building several vessels the navy needs."

FIGUEIREDO PROMISES TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE

PYL80012Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Feb 78 p 1 PY

[Text] Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo has promised that if he is elected he will assign priority to agriculture, because he is convinced that in the 1980's there will be a world food crisis which will be just as serious as the present energy crisis. He stated that Brazil should be prepared to become a major food exporter.

He emphasized the significance of improving small cities as a means to stop migration and the need to avoid both splintered organizations and the waste of resources. He also stated that once his candidacy is approved [by the ARENA convention] he will support ARENA's campaign in Rio de Janeiro State.

MILITARY 'DISAPPOINTED' AT WAGE INCREASE

PY180226Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpt] "We are being exposed as average men, as symbols of austerity and simplicity. They are forgetting that our courage to face day-to-day problems depends on our financial security." Remarks like this yesterday indicated the disappointment of military sources of various ranks with the military wage increase to be announced by President Geisel early next week.

A major criticism is that Planalto Palace has ignored the wage study prepared annually by the Armed Forces General Staff [EMFA], which suggests and justifies the ideal wage increase for each rank. They claim that the president has made a "unilateral decision," without taking into account "the reality of military life and all its needs," and approved increases which, in addition to differing from those proposed by the EMFA, are far lower than those granted to other government officials.

The submission of the annual EMFA study to Planalto Palace elicits "expectations which have been mostly disappointed in the past 2 years," officers of the military ministries said. These sources said that in 1977 "the flattening of wages" meant a military increase which was 16 percent lower than inflation and 9 percent lower than the increase granted to employees of the Applied Economic-Social Research Institute [IPEA] which was on the order of 44 percent. Furthermore, this increase goes into effect as of January, a 2-month difference which also elicited criticism. They also pointed to the government's "lack of logic" in granting a 40-percent increase to workers of the Brazilian Radiotelegraphic Company [RADIOBRAS] and a lower percentage to the military, especially since the latter percentage was already lower in last year's increase.

MISTREATMENT OF EXILES OFFICIALLY DENIED

PY172346Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] In an official note released today, the Justice Ministry regarded as absolutely false the report that 10,000 Brazilians are residing abroad under inadequate conditions and are being arbitrarily prevented from returning to the country.

The government also made clear that only 128 Brazilians were deprived of the right to enter the national territory. These persons left the country pursuant to the action of political terrorists who demanded their release in exchange for that of ambassadors of friendly countries. All other Brazilians staying abroad, allegedly for political reasons, whether having had their rights canceled or not, have voluntarily chosen to live abroad and they will stay abroad only if they wish.

In fact, there are no Brazilian exiles but self-exiled Brazilians who left the country because this suited their best interests.

The note added that most of these people left the country to avoid standing trial, serving a jail term or even complying with punishment imposed by the appropriate courts. Any of these persons can return to the country whenever they wish and defend themselves here in accordance with the law.

The Justice Ministry also denied claims that the Brazilian consulates have been refusing to issue birth certificates to the children of Brazilians who for one reason or another are staying outside the country, noting that even passports are being regularly issued to registered minors.

REPORTAGE ON PINOCHET-VIDELA MEETING IN PUERTO MONTT

Pinochet-Videla Agreement

PA202051Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1725 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text of the document signed by President Gen Augusto Pinochet and Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla on 20 February 1978 in Puerto Montt, Chile]

[Text] Their excellencies the presidents of Chile and Argentina, Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte and Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, respectively, on their own accord met on 20 February 1978 in Puerto Montt. In keeping with the spirit of concord and friendship that prevailed at the meeting in Mendoza, Argentina, on 19 January 1978, after examining in these meetings aspects regarding the relations between the two countries, particularly those stemming from the current situation in the southern region; and encouraged by their identical intent to strengthen the historic and fraternal ties between the two countries, they agreed on the following:

1. The bases to start negotiations which will enable direct understanding on fundamental issues concerning relations between Chile and Argentina, particularly matters which in the opinion of both governments are pending in the southern region, were presented at the meeting in Mendoza.
2. The bases for understanding--ratified at this meeting--do not represent any change in the positions of the parties regarding the court decision on the Beagle Channel, presented in the notes and statements issued by the two respective governments.
3. Both governments have given instructions to their respective authorities in the southern zone to avoid actions or positions contrary to the spirit of peaceful coexistence that should exist between both countries.
4. Their excellencies the presidents of Chile and Argentina, persevering to find a means to reach a direct understanding, by maintaining the integrity of the respective positions and rights of their governments and preserving these rights, have agreed on the following:
 - A. The establishment of a system of negotiations comprised of three phases, to be conducted by committees made up of representatives of both governments.
 - B. In the first phase, without contravening point 3 above and other measures that the governments of Chile and Argentina may implement to strengthen coexistence, a joint committee will submit to both governments within 45 days of the day this declaration is issued, the measures conducive to the creation of the necessary conditions for harmony and equity, until a complete and definite solution of the issues referred to in point C are solved. The governments of Chile and Argentina will agree on the proper measures. Likewise, while the negotiations are being held, the parties will not attempt to apply any laws on delimitation that one or the other parties has issued nor will they carry out actions that might serve as a basis of or support for any future delimitation in the southern zone inasmuch as such laws or actions might cause friction or difficulties with the other party.

C. In the second phase, another committee also composed of Argentine and Chilean representatives will examine the following points:

1. Definitive delimitation of the corresponding jurisdictions of Argentina and Chile in the southern region.
2. Measures to promote policies of physical integration [integracion fisica], economic complementation, and exploitation of natural resources, including the protection of the environment, by each state or jointly.
3. Consideration of the common Antarctic interests, coordination of the policies dealing with the frozen continent, defense of the legal rights of the two countries and study of the advances in the bilateral agreements on common areas in the Antarctic.
4. Matters related to the Strait of Magellan that are noted by the parties, with consideration of the relevant treaties and rules of international law.
5. Matters related to base lines.

This committee will begin its work on the date on which both governments reach agreement on the proposals submitted by the first committee and will end its work within a period of 6 months.

D. In the third phase, after the first two phases are completed, the proposals of the committee will be submitted to the Argentine and Chilean governments for agreement on the corresponding international instruments. It is understood that these instruments will be in keeping with the spirit of the treaties that already exist between the two countries so that they will be compatible and will not affect or modify the treaties. In the same fashion, whatever is agreed upon will not affect the Antarctic and cannot be interpreted as a prejudgement with regards to the sovereignty of one party of the other over the Antarctic territories.

5. It is established for the record that for the purpose of attaining as soon as possible a solution of the pending matters, the presidents of Argentina and Chile exchanged opinions on the possible limitations of the corresponding jurisdiction of the respective countries.

6. By proceeding in this fashion, both presidents are certain that they are interpreting the deep aspirations of peace, friendship and progress between the peoples of Argentina and Chile as well as remaining faithful to the legacy of our forefathers, O'Higgins and San Martin, and our fatherlands.

Pinochet Delivers Speech

PY210156Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2339 GMT 20 Feb 78 PY

[Text of speech by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet after signing document on Beagle negotiations with Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla in Puerto Montt on 20 February]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr President of the Argentine Republic; members of the presidential entourages:

The act which we, the presidents of Argentina and Chile, signed a few moments ago is another historic document which is added to those signed by our predecessors throughout the 168 years of independent life of our two nations.

This new instrument is a first step toward implementing our purpose of creating a harmonious atmosphere which may lead to a peaceful solution of our controversies and, then, to determining our two nations' respective rights pursuant to the [international] legal system which today has legally binding principles and rules. The act we signed lists and outlines the main subjects and issues of disagreement existing between our two countries and proposes a work schedule which is to be studied by the various commissions, which are to propose solutions within preestablished periods.

Mr President, we have already stated our main disagreements in the letters we exchanged in May 1977, in which we agreed upon the need to demarcate our states' maritime jurisdiction in the southeastern zone of the continent. For this purpose, we have expressed in the act of Puerto Montt our interest in promoting both physical integration in this area and our coordinated action to defend our legal rights over the Antarctic Continent. We have thus expressed our great desire that all citizens of our states, especially those living in border areas, may live as good neighbors by supporting each other and regarding each other, across the border, as brothers rather than as adversaries or enemies.

It has also been clearly stated that the negotiations do not mean any change in the positions both parties maintain with regard to the award on the Beagle Channel. My government has officially and publicly confirmed that, pursuant to previous commitments, the demarcation of jurisdiction in that region was definitely established by the decision of her Britannic majesty. Therefore, the negotiations to be held will in no way affect any right granted to Chile in that area by the award.

The work schedule outlined in the act includes the immediate creation of a joint commission which, beginning today, will study those measures aimed at bringing about the necessary harmony, not only among good neighbors but also to make moderation prevail in the spirit of the negotiators.

On this solemn occasion, I want to state very clearly that Chile has no expansionist intentions, nor does it intend to unjustly claim land, maritime areas or continental shelves which are not hers. At the same time, and with this same emphasis, I proclaim that my government will faithfully fulfill its responsibility to defend the heritage to which it is entitled by law. The best demonstration that my government was and continues to be inspired by a desire for peace and justice is the fact that it has time and again proposed to submit controversies to the International Court of Justice, since the involvement of an arbitrator can prevent governments from having negative conflicts in their history. The measures which we have communicated to the appropriate authorities to avoid actions or attitudes contrary to the spirit of peaceful coexistence should be accompanied by a similar spirit on the part of the news media in order to inspire confidence among the citizenry. I would also like to say that the need to demarcate maritime jurisdictions between states happens frequently, due to the evolution of the law of the sea and the greater possibilities for exploiting the riches of the sea, the sea bottom and the continental shelf.

The International Court of Justice has stated that what grants any state the ipso jure title over its shelf is the fact that underwater areas can be considered part of the territory over which the state already rules even though it is covered by water, because they are an extension of its territory under the sea. In addition, the Geneva Convention also established that when a shelf is adjacent to two bordering states' territories, its delimitation should be determined by an equidistant line unless special circumstances justify some other definition.

I cite as an example the North Sea continental shelf. The International Court of Justice declared that common law obliged the parties to negotiate in good faith, with the intention of arriving at an agreement for a fair delimitation, and presented some geographic factors which should be taken into account when carrying out that delimitation. We have also recently seen that Western Europe's sea powers have submitted the delimitation of their maritime areas, or rather the determination of the principles which should regulate such delimitation, to the International Court of Justice or to specialized courts.

We believe that the attitude of those states coincides with our age-old experience in the legal solution of controversies, and with the general arbitration agreement we signed at the beginning of the century and updated 5 years ago. For this reason, we hope that the differences we have mentioned in the act can be resolved with direct agreements. In any case, the treaty of 1972 offers us an opportunity for legal resolution.

Your excellency, there are many cases of rivalry between patriotic leaders in the history of American independence which have caused disagreements and even fratricidal wars, while forgetting that one of the functions of a leader is to control the people's bellicose fury. But, in this part of America, the friendship between Generals San Martin and O'Higgins was an honorable exception, and an example of idealism and high goals. Today more than ever, we should remember this as we seek to clarify points of view in order to further unify both peoples in their future hopes in America and the world.

President of the sister Republic of Argentina, this is how your friend, the President of Chile, speaks to you now, expressing his wish that the spirit of peace and friendship which inspired our predecessors in their struggles for independence, while embracing the strait [as received] or while raising the Christ in the Andean range. Let that same spirit light our way toward full understanding and cooperation between our states, because, Your Excellency, unlike other nations in the world, we base our bilateral relations more than anything else on the strong bonds formed in the struggle for freedom, with friendship, tradition, history and brotherhood. The present times leave no alternatives. I have spoken.

Remarks By Videla

PA202203Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1942 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[By Raul Duque]

[Excerpts] Puerto Montt, 20 Feb (LATIN)--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet said here today that Chile does not have any expansionist aims nor does it intend to claim any foreign sea areas or continental shelf areas. In a speech addressed to Argentine President Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, the Chilean president said that the best way to settle territorial conflicts is to submit them to arbitration.

The Argentine president answered that Chile and Argentina are now giving an example of brotherhood between nations. In his speech, Videla said: "Permit me, in all humility, to speak on this occasion only from the heart. I say this because this ceremony is imbued with the affection and mutual respect of two sovereign states that emerged from a single ideal. It is unusually meaningful for me to be a participant in this historic event."

"In a confused and perplexing world such as the contemporary one, it is difficult to imagine--as we have imagined today in this concrete case of two countries linked by the fundamental principles governing relations between two countries--attaining together, through affection and mutual respect, such an understanding as is contained in the spirit of the agreement which has just been issued. However, if this example of brotherhood between two countries is pleasing, more pleasing is the fact that these two countries are brothers in origin, language and religion and even in their blood, which is intertwined in their families and in the blood so generously spilled in both countries for the benefit of freedom."

Videla Leaves Puerto Montt

PY202056Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2034 GMT 20 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Puerto Montt, Chile, 20 Feb--Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla left for Buenos Aires after signing a boundary negotiation agreement here with his Chilean counterpart, Gen Augusto Pinochet.

EL MERCURIO FAULTS REMARKS BY BOLIVIA'S ADRIAZOLA

PY181309Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0530 GMT 18 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 18 Feb--The newspaper EL MERCURIO today said that Bolivian Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola had no justification to criticize Chile and Peru for not granting his country an outlet to the sea. Commenting on Adriazola's recent statements, EL MERCURIO said that they were understandable in part "because of the passions characteristic of a developing electoral and democratization process" which is currently underway in the altiplano country. The paper maintained that Chile cannot be blamed for the stagnation of the talks to solve Bolivia's landlocked situation, because it has done everything that is possible to grant it an outlet to the sea.

The newspaper pointed out that Peruvian consent is necessary to satisfy the Bolivian aspiration, according to the 1929 treaty which says neither of the two nations may cede to a third power any territories situated in Arica Province, which is where Chile plans to grant Bolivia a corridor.

It concluded by saying that "the anti-Chile reaction in Bolivia is thus wholly unjustified, because the problem is too serious to be taken out of the calm atmosphere of the Foreign Ministries and launched into the streets among the passions typical of an electoral struggle."

BRIEFS

MILITARY MISSION TO BRAZIL--A mission from the Chilean Polytechnic Military Institution headed by Col Luis Reyes Tastets arrived last night in Brasilia where it was welcomed by Gen Ariel Pacca da Fonseca, commander of the Brazilian Army Chief of Staff. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1551 GMT 18 Feb 78 PY]

EL ESPECTADOR COMMENTS ON CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY

PA171908Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Feb 78 p 2-A PA

[Editorial: "Carter's Foreign Policy"]

[Text] After completing his first year of office, Jimmy Carter, former peanut grower, political surprise of the recent electoral campaign, former governor of Georgia and currently president of the United States, can show in the international field if not fully satisfactory results at least results better than what many expected, "being constructively engaged"--as Zbigniew Brzezinski, assistant to the President for national security affairs, said--"in trying to help mold the world so as to make it more dignified and a better place in which to live."

It has been Carter's aim to bring ethics to his country's foreign policy. Within this context, matters relating to human rights have been relevant and actions to lessen the tension between the United States and the USSR have been outstanding, particularly in regard to an agreement in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), which diminishes worries over the arms race that definitely diverts indispensable resources from being used to improve living conditions in the world's underdeveloped areas, as well as in the states of the union of this planet in which the distribution of wealth is so uneven and in which the United States, a few European countries and Japan keep more than 70 percent of the income from total annual production.

It is also worth noting how the President of the most powerful nation has realized that his actions are not limited just to his country's borders, that what he does has repercussions in the world and, therefore, that it should be above selfish interests. Many sectors have expressed their concern over the position he will adopt regarding the Middle East and southern Africa's problems and, after what Sudanese President Gen Ja'far Muhammad Numeiri said concerning the USSR's plan to seize Africa "little by little," these sectors have said that the United States is not doing anything because it is afraid it will start another war and that, therefore, it is doing nothing to stop the USSR, which is a good reason for one to worry about the future of Somalia, Sudan and Kenya. Let us wait and see how this delicate situation turns out. Nevertheless, we are glad that any decision regarding this issue will depend on a man who is known to be sincere and honest, the opposite of the regrettable Nixon. The conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia must be solved on a regional basis with the participation of African nations and according to the principles of territorial integrity and nonintervention.

We were pleased to see that it was President Carter who ordered the sale of arms to Latin American dictatorships restricted and that positive steps have been taken in specific cases. Now we are waiting for the approval of final ratification of the Panama Canal treaties, according to which Panama will grant the United States the right until the year 2000 to manage, operate and maintain the canal, its structures, installations and other equipment. This will be carried out on a clearly established basis and through a sort of cogovernment composed of citizens of the two sister countries, a cogovernment formed in order to prevent unilateral decisions from being made. These treaties give the Panamanians economic benefits and participation in the canal's operation, of indisputable value, and also reestablish and recognize Panama's sovereignty, because when the new treaty goes into effect it will be effective over the entire Canal Zone. With regard to this matter, Colombia wants to know when and how our rights of transit are to be discussed and also whether we will continue to have the privileges our country has enjoyed for many years.

We can say concerning the Carter administration, which has certainly managed its foreign policy reasonably well in its first year despite some obvious errors, that it does not deserve to be criticized as harshly as were previous governments.

This does not necessarily mean that there is still not much to be done and achieved on matters related to international aid, reciprocal cooperation, just treatment and on behalf of the democratic system. Let us hope that we do not have to wait too long.

BAADER-MAINHOFF TERRORISTS CLAIM CREDIT FOR EXPLOSION

PA180209Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0134 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 17 Feb (AFP)--The Baader-Mainhoff terrorist group tonight claimed credit for the attack on the Lufthansa offices early on Friday. A 4-page communique on the subject was released today to the Caracas Radio Network and to several other communications outlets. Early this morning a powerful bomb partially destroyed the FRG airline's offices in downtown Bogota, causing considerable damage but no casualties.

INTERPOL recently warned the Colombian authorities about the German extremists' presence in this country, but it was not until today that this report was apparently confirmed. In its message, the Andrea-Baader Brigade, of the German Liberation Popular Front, warns that the attack on Lufthansa "marks the beginning of a number of attacks against German and U.S. monopolies that plunder and exploit the world's oppressed peoples." Further on, the communique states that "with this small but significant attack it has achieved very important objectives, one of which is to manifest solidarity with and support for the revolutionary war that several fraternal peoples have been waging against FRG imperialism in particular and against its neofascist forces, which have become the favorite model for ultramodern repressive bodies, both in the imperialist countries and in those nations dominated by them."

It has been recalled here that in the FRG the Baader-Mainhoff group has been responsible for a number of attacks and kidnappings, the execution of several industrialists and high-ranking government officials, and the hijacking of a Lufthansa plane to Somalia. Local police spokesmen have abstained from supplying any details about the German terrorists' activities, simply pointing out that an investigation is already underway in connection with the explosion at the Lufthansa offices.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER COMMENTS ON STATE OF SIEGE

PA181959Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[By Guillermo Tribin Piedrahita]

[Excerpt] Bogota, 18 Feb (EFE)--The state of siege is not an "instrument of electioneering pressure" nor is it "incompatible" with the normal development of the congressional elections to be held on 26 February. This statement was made here today by Colombian Government Minister Alfredo Araujo Grau, in response to requests by leaders of the far left for the lifting of the state of siege because of its incompatibility with free elections. For the past 30 years Colombia has lived under the state of siege provided for by Article 121 of the constitution. Consequently, it will not be the first time elections have been held in these circumstances. Araujo Grau said the enforcement of the state of siege has not "obstructed the full exercise of public liberties" during the campaign. He reiterated that political parties and groups have enjoyed "full guarantees" for their campaigning. The minister said: "The government does not view the state of siege as an instrument of electioneering pressure but as an irreplaceable constitutional measure to successfully fight the aggression of organized delinquency."

GOVERNMENT ANNULS 3 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACIES

PA201859Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1849 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 20 Feb (AFP)--It was reported here today that the Ecuadorean military government has annulled the presidential candidacies of populist leader Asaad Bucaram and former presidents Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra and Carlos Julio Arosemena Monroy. These Ecuadorean politicians will not be able to participate as candidates in the presidential elections on 16 July, since the electoral law which the Supreme Council of Government has just issued has provisions which annul the candidacies of the three political leaders.

AROSEMENA SCORES POSSIBLE BAN ON PRESIDENTIAL REELECTION

PA180020Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2058 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[By Julio Cesar Villaverde]

[Excerpt] Quito, 17 Feb (LATIN)--Former President Carlos Julio Arosemena today described as "a blow to the head" possible regulations that would prevent him from being a candidate in the 16 July elections, which will return Ecuador to a democratic government system. Arosemena has been nominated by the Nationalist Revolutionary Party (PNR). His concern is also being shared by the powerful populist movement which nominated Asaad Bucaram, who is considered to be one of the most serious presidential hopefuls.

Concern has increased in view of the persistent rumors that the ruling military government will include specific conditions for the presidential candidates in the elections law that will be promulgated in the next few days. The rumors indicate that Arosemena would be affected by a provision that would prohibit the election of a former president, while Bucaram would be affected by the requirement that presidential candidates be born of Ecuadorean parents.

Electoral Law Denounced

PA202239Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2139 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 20 Feb (LATIN)--Under the electoral law promulgated today by the military government, at least two presidential candidates have been excluded from the 16 July elections that will return Ecuador to a constitutional regime. The law's provisions which have stirred up the political media, affect Asaad Bucaram, leader of the Concentration of Popular Forces (CFP), and former President Carlos Julio Arosemena who had been nominated by the Nationalist Revolutionary Party (PNR).

The qualifications in the electoral law, particularly those "that must be satisfied by Ecuadorean citizens in order to become president or vice president of the republic, represent a decision by the armed forces and as such have their total support," government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin said as he announced the laws on elections and political parties. Under a temporary provision of the electoral law "Bucaram, who was regarded as one of the strongest candidates in the July elections, was excluded from the electoral campaign because his parents are Lebanese. The organic law promulgated by the armed forces stipulates that the president of the republic is their commander in chief "and for this reason they have resolved that he must be an Ecuadorean citizen by birth or the son of Ecuadorean parents by birth."

"Consequently, those who want to be nominated and registered as a candidate for the presidency or vice presidency of the republic must fulfill these same requirements," he added.

For his part, Arosemena, who ruled the country from 1961 to 1963, was included in the provision that stipulates that candidates may "not have served as the president of the republic." Another qualification is that the hopefuls be members of "and sponsored by one of the officially recognized parties," which affects Rodrigo Borja from the Democratic Left, a political group that is not legally authorized. "The populist because he is a populist and Arosemena because he is a nationalist," said a provincial leader of the Arosemenist party to the press in one of the initial reactions to the law. Bucaram, whose presidential aspirations were frustrated in 1972 by a coup d'etat headed by Gen Guillermo Rodriguez Lara, said that "a general is not elected at the polls," drawing a parallel with the argument presented in the law. Speaking from his headquarters in the city of Guayaquil, 450 km southwest of Quito, Bucaram told a local radio station: "The president of the republic, as head of Ecuadorean society, is chief of the government, the public services, the public force, and so on. Therefore, he is not a general."

"We must protest this fraud...There is not even respect for public opinion today," added the 65-year-old politician, who is the most important popular leader today. "They are closing the way to me in order to open it to Sixto Duran Ballen or any other candidate that might emerge in the future," he added, referring to the mayor of Quito who has been nominated by a group of nine center-right parties. Duran had been considered the most serious opponent to Bucaram in the July election.

Other presidential candidates included Francisco Huerta of the Liberal Party and Abdon Calderon of the Alfalist Radical Front. Political circles believe that the elimination of Bucaram favors Huerta, a 38-year-old doctor. The presidential elections form part of a complex plan to return to a constitutional government. It was drafted by the military triumvirate, and should culminate with the transfer of power to the president-elect at a yet unspecified date this year.

VELASCO IBARRA APPROVES REMOVAL OF PARTY'S NATIONAL DIRECTOR

PA172254Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0135 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guayaquil, 16 Feb (EFE)--Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra, octogenarian former Ecuadorean president who is in voluntary exile in Argentina, has approved the removal of Alfonso Arroyo Robelly as national director of Velasquism. A group of leaders of the formerly powerful Velasquist Party held a national convention over the weekend, during which they disavowed the authority of Alfonso Arroyo and selected a new leadership headed by former Deputy Juan Carlos Faidutti. In a message sent from Buenos Aires yesterday to the Guayaquil newspaper EXPRESO and published today, Velasco Ibarra expresses his "sincere satisfaction" over the appointment of Faidutti as national director.

Meanwhile, Alfonso Arroyo has described the convention which removed him as leader of the party as a "ridiculous farce." He has announced that a national assembly of "authentic Velasquism" will be convened in the next few days.

The new leadership of the Velasquist Party, headed by Juan Carlos Faidutti, is currently in Buenos Aires trying to convince Velasco Ibarra to return to Ecuador and accept the nomination as presidential candidate.

PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENT ON 'CRISIS' WITH ECUADOR

PA180412Y Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0109 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] President Francisco Morales Bermudez yesterday said that one should never lose faith in Peru's destiny or in the capacity of Peruvians to solve any problem, however difficult it may be. The chief of state yesterday received a protocol visit from the board of directors of the Society of General Officers. He told them: I think that "a spirit of unity and frank and patriotic cooperation from all Peruvians, which is so necessary at this moment to overcome the crisis, will be decisive."

Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente Radbill said yesterday before leaving for Trujillo to complete a very busy schedule of activities in connection with his position as supervisor of the La Libertad Department that to say Peru is toying with international problems to quiet the domestic front is to make a "very serious and dishonest" statement. "Our internal problems," he said, "are best solved by Peruvians, but we cannot toy with the sovereignty of the country."

The foreign minister made these statements after commenting on reports he had read in some newspapers that wondered why it was that the Foreign Ministry was only now giving out information on the incidents that took place on the border with Ecuador. The Foreign Ministry, he said, cannot continuously be giving out information about any delicate situation, because the duty of the Foreign Ministry is not "to alarm the country but to watch out for the rights of the country."

Diplomatic Dialog at Standstill

PA180431Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0032 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima 17 Feb (LATIN)--Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente has announced here that the diplomatic dialog between Peru and Ecuador on the border problems is at a standstill. He said that it is "false" that he visited Quito to meet personally with the members of the Ecuadorean Government. The minister said that he has no knowledge of any official Ecuadorean reaction following the Peruvian Foreign Ministry's communique protesting the statements made by Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso. Last week, Ayala Lasso, speaking in Quito, denied the validity of Peruvian claims in the Amazon region, and after stating that his country was "more entitled" to being an Amazon country, he disavowed a treaty upholding Peru's possession of that region.

De la Puente said during the news conference he offered last night at the Jorge Chavez Airport that "we have issued a communique stating Peru's position, and when reason is on one's side one must remain calm and collected." The foreign minister said that Peru hopes "to be understood" by Ecuador on the basis of respect for the Rio de Janeiro Treaty, which established the border between the two countries in the Amazon region following a war in 1941.

The Peruvian foreign minister stated: "We can work in peace to reach a series of complementary border agreements, and work together in the Andean Group and in any other international organization as long as there is respect for the treaty [words indistinct] we cannot toy with something as sacred as sovereignty. We Peruvians will solve our internal problems ourselves, but international problems affect everybody and we should not toy with them. That would be a serious mistake."

Ecuador's Amazon Claims Opposed

PA171605Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 110 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 Feb (EFE)--The Movement of the Peruvian Revolution today asked the United Nations and the governments which guarantee the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942, which established the border between Peru and Ecuador, to "urge Ecuador" to abide by the protocol in order to "assure continental peace." There has been a continued escalation of protests and rejections here, started by the Peruvian foreign minister on the 11th concerning Ecuadorean claims over the Amazon.

Several political parties and organizations have already come out against the Ecuadorean foreign minister's speech on the subject last week. Rejections of the Ecuadorean stand that it has the most valid right to possess the Amazon region continued today. The Peruvian Association of Exporters (ADEX) says that Ecuador's claims "threaten Peru's territorial integrity, "which should be defended by all Peruvians, if necessary with their lives."

For its part, the Peruvian Architects Association indicates that Ecuador's attitude "imprudently alters the atmosphere of peace which is indispensable for the development of the Latin American people."

The General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CCTP, communist "reaffirms the patriotic determination of the working class and workers in general to defend the integrity of our fatherland and enforce total respect for the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Treaty," which Ecuador wants to disavow.

Also, the municipality of Arequipa, Peru's second most important city, about 1,000 km south of Lima, sent a message to the president rejecting the "unheard of and baseless" Ecuadorean claim.

Finally, the Peruvian Communist Party points out that to ignore the Rio protocol is to alter the atmosphere of peace which is indispensable for integration.

Newspaper Deplores Amazon Conflict

PA182022Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Feb 78 p 2 PA

[Editorial]

[Text] In Peru and Latin America we are accustomed, though not resigned, to the recurring childishness of the Quito Foreign Ministry as it returns again and again to the futile game of considering itself an "Amazon country" with rivers that do not belong to it. Anything said about it now, as in 1941 or at any other time, is idle talk because the last word in this respect was definitely stated in the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol. We are compelled to say this in order to calm down the oratorical flights of fancy of the Ecuadorean Foreign Minister. Taking advantage of a public ceremony in Quito, he launched before the triumvirate and the diplomatic corps a series of unfounded statements. Behind this verbal smokescreen he posed veiled threats against Peruvian territorial integrity. We can imagine the surprise of the diplomats who had to listen to this nonsense, especially the Brazilian, Chilean and U.S. diplomats, since their countries are guarantors that the 1942 treaty will not be infringed. We cannot overlook an acutely telling circumstance related to the Ecuadorean foreign minister's outbreak. This is the fact that he makes a pretense of dialog held between Peru and Ecuador being an imaginary "search for a definite solution to the territorial problem separating us." Peru is not separated from Ecuador by any problem, be it territorial or of any other kind. If Ecuador and its rulers want to invent or provoke some problem, this will be the only one separating us. On such an occasion we shall not lack fraternal words of reproach nor other effective arguments to squelch such a harebrained and sterile scheme.

There is something humorous about the Ecuadorean foreign minister's oratory when he demands rights on Quijos and other Peruvian territories. He seems to have forgotten or is ignorant of the fact that this territory of Quijos, Canelos and other territory, even close to Guayas itself, was negotiated by Ecuador by selling it to England for the sum of 2,600,600 pesos in the Icaza-Pritchett agreement of 21 September 1857. There is a legal precept which establishes that one cannot sell what is not one's own and that any such sale is void. Peru opposed Ecuador's sale of this territory, which was Peruvian. In view of the intransigence of the Ecuadorean Government headed by Gen Francisco Robles, Peru was compelled to occupy this territory and blockade Guayaquil port with the squadron commanded by Admiral Ignacio Mariategui. On this occasion Castilla had the opportunity to publicly present the original of the 1802 Cedula, an irrefutable document on the Peruvian rights over this region, which Ecuador at that time was selling at the rate of 3 pesos a hectare in the Guayas, Atacames, Sua and other regions and for 4 reales a hectare in the Canelas, Pailon Zamora and other regions. If the forceful attitude of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry before the London government had not compelled the British crown to desist from the sale, and if the military move by the Castilla administration had not halted the sale, what territory would the Quito foreign minister be claiming now? On that occasion, when Peru opposed the sale it merely prevented foreigners from negotiating for what did not belong to them. This attitude was supported by the Colombians, Chilean, U.S. and French governments and the British Government itself.

Now, in this recurrent sleepwalking, does the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry intend to revive the "Ecuador Amazon country" dream? Will it also try to revive the creation of that sort of "Amazon Guyana" whose disloyal creation was prevented and will always be prevented by Peru?

There is also something amusing about the tropical determination to create something like an Ecuadorean "Pascana right" [not further identified] on the Amazon. Just as Gonzalo Pizarro, on orders from his brother Francisco left Cuzco in search of the Amazon River, but slept in many places including Quito during his trip, there are some who would like to believe that the overnight stay in Quito was more important than any other and that it granted a sort of "droit du seigneur" over the great river.

Let us leave this aside and consider something more important. Our readers will understand that once all matters of boundaries between Peru and Ecuador were settled by the 1942 protocol, compliance with which is guaranteed by the Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean and U.S. governments, there can be talks to perfect the material aspects of the protocol's implementation. There can be nothing else and only in this manner can Ecuador make full use of the rights granted by this protocol. To interpose other conditions would be, or is, the sacrifice of the effective rights of the Ecuadorean people to enjoy access to the Amazon through its northern tributaries just as Brazil, Colombia are doing and others which could do it by bilateral agreements. Ecuador's honor is at stake as a voluntary signer of the protocol. We would not like to admit that, now at the time that the Brazilian Government is trying, with considerable acceptance by the Andean countries, to propose talks for the establishment of a multinational cooperation system in the Amazon region, that the Quito government has chosen this moment to drive a destructive wedge in the legal principles on which any treaty referring to the Amazon region would have to be based.

Linking the future of Andean intergration with Ecuador's groundless claims on the Amazon means setting an unreasonable condition. If this is what our northern neighbor really seeks, it can start by parting with the Andean Pact and face the dire consequences that this will bring to the Ecuadorean people.

The Ecuadorean people are deceived by politicians who, lacking programs and constructive banners, raise shreds out of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. The breaking of this commitment is the responsibility of the Ecuadorean Government and politicians and not that of the Ecuadorean people or Peru. Today, as in 1859, 1920, 1941 and at all times Peru has done and will do everything possible to avert the vexations, sorrows, hardships and sacrifices arising out of a situation which it is confronting and will confront, along with all of its consequences, with its usual loftiness, calm and firmness.

We trust that good sense will prevail or revive again in our neighboring country. We thought we had with them the best official, commercial and friendly relations in many years. We continue to hold high hopes for their maintenance and will do every effort in this regard along the same path of respect for freely undertaken commitments.

HUNGER STRIKERS TAKE REFUGE IN UK EMBASSY

PA202314Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1925 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 20 Feb (AFP)--The foreign press has confirmed that three adults accompanied by three children took refuge today in the British Embassy in Lima to continue a hunger strike that they began in a church. The group, together with many other strikers, was expelled by the police from the churches they occupied last week to protest the dismissal of approximately 5,000 workers in July of last year following a general strike. The courts have ruled against the hunger strikers, permitting the police to enter the churches with the consent of the ecclesiastical authorities.

Asylum Request Rejected

PA211314Y Paris AFP in English 0702 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, Peru, Feb 20 (AFP)--Six Peruvians asked the British Embassy for political asylum today but were turned down. Plainclothes police them when they left the embassy. [sentence as received] The two men, one woman and three children, on a hunger strike to demand re-employment of 5,000 fired Peruvian workers, had occupied offices at the embassy. An embassy spokesman said they left the building voluntarily. The group asked for political asylum under a Montevideo treaty that the British diplomats said Britain had not signed.

ADEX REPORTS FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE FOR 1977

PA191714Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1524 GMT 19 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 19 Feb (AFP)--The Peruvian Exporters Association (Adex) has reported that exports of manufactured goods climbed to a total of \$246 million last year. On the other hand, the country's imports in 1977 totaled \$1.75 billion. In a report on its activities, ADEX said that nontraditional exports increased by \$104 million over 1976, that is, an increase of 72.35 percent. The association, which has vowed to increase sales in 1980 to \$1 billion, said that success was achieved last year despite difficulties in obtaining financing. "This is evidence," ADEX added, "of the positive effect of the government's policy of providing incentives for the production of nontraditional products." In order to resolve the present economic crisis and consolidate development, it is necessary to increase exports at a faster rate, ADEX said. It concluded that to achieve this it is necessary to expand present incentives and, above all, create a foreign trade bank as part of a general system of promoting exports.

PEREZ REFERS TO CHAMORRO'S DEATH, OIL TALKS

PA201531Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1205 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, 20 Feb (EFE)--President Carlos Andres Perez announced here yesterday that he will invite Violeta Chamorro, widow of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, to visit Venezuela. Perez and Chamorro, director of the newspaper LA NACION [as received], who was shot to death in Managua's streets on 10 January, had worked together and were very good friends. When he learned of Chamorro's death, Perez sent a telegram to his widow describing the killing as "an abominable crime."

During a news conference, the Venezuelan chief of state rejected the charge of violation of human rights leveled at him by the pro-Somoza newspaper NOVEDADES of Nicaragua with the expression "practicing what he preaches" [el diablo haciendo hostias] and the observation that he is a native of an Andean region where most people are Catholics.

Elsewhere in his statement, Perez said that Venezuela is interested in holding official government-to-government talks for the sale of its oil, not only to the United States, but to European and Asian countries as well. He said in this connection that Valentin Hernandez Acosta, Venezuelan energy and mines minister, is scheduled to leave soon for Washington to review these possibilities with President Carter.

He also reported that Venezuela's share in the joint venture that will construct the final phase of the Raul Leoni hydroelectric dam in Guri, Bolivar State, near Brazil, has been increased to 39 percent, and that Brazil will hold 61 percent.

Concluding, he announced that efforts are being made to create a Brazilian-Venezuelan enterprise which, in addition to constructing the final phase of the dam at Guri, would serve as a vehicle for participation in other international bids.

PEREZ REJECTS THREATS ATTRIBUTED TO CARTER

PA201608Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Venezuela will not accept threats from any country, no matter how great a power that country might be, said President Perez, regarding certain statements attributed to President Carter. The President said that he does not believe the United States is capable of any action which violates the sovereignty of another nation.

USSR, CUBA SAID RECRUITING MERCENARIES FOR ETHIOPIA, ANGOLA

PA190317Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0251 GMT 19 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 18 Feb (EFE)--The Soviet and Cuban embassies are recruiting mercenaries from Poland and Latin America, specifically Venezuela, to fight in Ethiopia and Angola, it was learned in Caracas today. That was the secret revealed by the Polish Embassy adviser in Venezuela, Ryszard Habdas, in exchange for his asylum in the U.S. Embassy in Caracas on 5 February, according to today's EL MUNDO. Habdas and his wife and daughter sought refuge at the U.S. Embassy and later went to that country under a safe-conduct from the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry.

A letter sent to the paper by a close friend of the Polish diplomat justifies his decision, claiming that he had long contemplated the idea of fleeing from "that Russian colony that is Poland, which has only a limited, revocable independence."

The confidant admits that Habdas had in fact turned over important documents from the Soviet and Polish embassies to the North Americans in exchange for political asylum and subsequent travel anywhere in the United States. "Habdas," according to the letter, "did not make his decision for money or any other material advantage, but because of his deep-rooted convictions."

MILITARY WATCHING CARACAS, VARIOUS CITIES AFTER DISTURBANCES

PA180012Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2355 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Various neighborhoods of Caracas and some Venezuelan cities in the interior continue under military surveillance in an attempt to stop a wave of street disturbances that began in San Felipe on Tuesday with the death of student Carlos Ribera. The disorders and looting yesterday extended to the cities of Valencia, Acarigua and (Porlamar), where the students set fire to vehicles, erected barricades, broke store windows and looted the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Action Party.

In Caracas, the police reported that five persons were injured: Some were burned by acid during the fighting. In Valencia, several vehicles were set on fire and transit was paralyzed for several hours. In Acarigua, unarmed policemen were sent to break up the demonstrations. They had to use rocks to defend themselves. Fourteen policemen were injured and the rest had to withdraw.

According to the government, student Carlos Ribera died from a shot that was not fired from a police weapon.

Unprecedented Destruction Reported

PA210428Y Paris APP in Spanish 0410 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guarenas, Venezuela, 20 Feb (APP)--The violent student disturbances staged today in this town, located some 20 km east of Caracas, resulted in over \$1 million in losses and the arrest of more than 50 students. The local headquarters of the official Democratic Action (AD) and the Social Christian Party (COPEI), the main opposition party, were looted and burned. After a peaceful weekend, the students have begun demonstrating again, this time in Guarenas, where the resulting looting and destruction is regarded as unprecedented in recent years.

The headquarters of AD and COPEI were looted by the demonstrators. Afterwards, they set fire to the two headquarters, causing still undetermined damages. The demonstrators did the same to the office of a bus company. Besides looting it, the demonstrators stole 37,000 bolivares (about \$9,000) which apparently was the company's payroll. The attacks were then directed against business establishments, causing considerable damages. The accumulated garbage of the stores was scattered in the streets and then set on fire. The demonstrators also tried to rob two banks, but armed guards prevented them from doing so. The amount of damages is estimated at about 5 million bolivares (a little over \$1 million).

The extreme violence of the protest and the successful or thwarted attacks have led the authorities to declare that ultraleftist "professional agitators" infiltrated the students to provoke the violence.

TORRIJOS' BROTHER DENIES DRUG TRAFFIC CHARGES

PA172310Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1459 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Madrid 17 Feb (AFP)--Panama's ambassador to Spain, Moises Torrijos, accused in the United States of being involved in the heroin trade, told the evening newspaper [INFORMACIONES on Friday that "the accusation is an outrage." The ambassador, brother of Panama's strongman Gen Omar Torrijos, said that "it is a political and not a legal accusation and is completely false."

He then said that "the charge is being made by persons who are opposed to the canal treaties' ratification and want to spoil the government's and the country's image at this important moment." Torrijos adds that since 1977 his country's government has had documents from the U.S. Customs Department narcotics office which say that neither Gen Omar Torrijos nor any member of his family has had anything to do with these charges." Moises Torrijos concludes by saying that Panama is one of the foremost countries in the antidrug campaign and that "he has traveled through the Canal Zone many times without being arrested under an alleged warrant against him. This proves it is a lie."

Education Minister Denies Charges

PA171655Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0233 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 Feb--Panamanian Education Minister Aristides Royo said during a stopover in Lima today on his way back to Panama that the charges that Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos is involved in drug trafficking are an invention. He said Panama has also been charged with not respecting human rights and other things but that investigations of these charges against Torrijos have shown that they are false. Royo said that Panama is one of the countries which most severely clamps down on drug trafficking and that in October a meeting will be held in Panama by the INTERPOL to discuss drug trafficking.

Discussing other topics, he noted that the U.S. Senate debates on the new canal treaties will resume on 21 February and are expected to last from 4 to 6 weeks. He pointed out that there are good prospects for ratification as it has already been recommended.

Questioned on what would happen if the U.S. Senate voted negatively, Royo said that he did not want to predict anything but undoubtedly it would be disappointing for Panama, which has been struggling for 70 years to recover the Canal Zone, and for all of Latin America, which backs Panama's claims.

He disclosed that he had met with President Augusto Pinochet in Chile and with other Chilean authorities to discuss the copper industry.

Royo noted that Panama has reserves of 2 billion tons of this metal and two important projects to develop its copper industry.

He added that Panama would join the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPED) in the near future.

YOUTH WARNED ABOUT DRUGS DISTRIBUTED BY ANTITREATY GROUPS

PA181319Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Feb 78 p 4-A PA

[Bitacora de la Redaccion column]

[Text] Gangsters and former CIA agents recruited as mercenaries by the unpatriotic groups and the U.S. conservative sectors which oppose and attack the Torrijos-Carter treaties are preparing new plots against our country and its leaders and people.

Seeking to complicate the lives of unwary and unsuspecting persons, those gangsters and former CIA agents recruited as mercenaries by unpatriotic persons are trying to distribute drugs in order to be able to continue with their deceitful campaign against our country.

Their criminal methods seem to be directed against our youth, particularly youths involved in the revolutionary process. So be on the alert then, because as the wise proverb says: Forewarned is forearmed!

It must be noted that this infamous tactic is not new. U.S. authorities are well aware of the damage done to thousands of U.S. youths in the armed forces who have been led astray by drugs.

There were periods during the time of the cold war and confrontation when nations had to face a worse weapon than bacteriological warfare: opium.

The situation was so serious that in the United States and Red China, to cite an example, intelligence and counterintelligence agencies had to work diligently against the opium traffic used to weaken armies and destabilize nations.

So, be on the alert, because the antipatriotic mercenaries are using the worst weapons. It is up to us to avoid their provocations and traps!

CANAL ZONE WORKERS PROTEST NEW TREATIES

PA171928Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The U.S. workers of the Panama Canal will not hold a strike, at least not for the time being, although the possibility of another sick-out movement has not been discarded. Over 1,000 U.S. workers last night met in front of the Panama Canal administration building in Balboa to protest the labor clauses of the new treaties. They are mostly protesting the early retirement clauses, which they feel are not appropriate.

The leader of the policemen's union, William "Bulldog" Bill Drummond, made the appeal for a strike. The unions which are made up of the key workers of the canal, such as the pilots, electronic experts and lock operators, are opposed to the strike. Some leaders pointed out that the strike would be declared illegal by the Canal Zone government, which could very well expel those who do not show up for work.

The U.S. workers are mostly concerned over the early retirement conditions. One of the clauses specifies that canal workers who are 48 years old and have at least 18 years of service will be granted voluntary retirement. The U.S. workers want the right to an early retirement for all workers who have 15 years of service in the Canal Zone, regardless of age, with 50 percent of their last salary.

The possibility of a sick-out movement was left dangling in the air when policeman Drummond left the meeting limping and said: I am going to call in sick tomorrow, and I think you should do the same.

Employees Ignore Sick-out Call

PA181438Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Yesterday employees of the Panama Canal Company went to work as usual, ignoring the opposers of the Panama Canal treaties, who had called for a sick-out to hamper traffic in the interoceanic waterway. Frank Balowin, a spokesman for the Panama Canal Company, said that operations are being carried out normally. He said that there may be a few sick people around, but there was no largescale absenteeism. Baldwin added that supervisors may take disciplinary measures against anyone who participates in the sick-out.

In a meeting on Thursday, William Drummond, president of the Union of Canal Zone Policemen and a leading opponent of the treaties, had urged some 1,500 persons in attendance to call in sick next week in support of demands that the rights of Panama Canal Company employees be guaranteed by legislation before the Senate ratifies the treaty.

EDITORIAL SEES ZONIANS AS TROJAN HORSES

PA202304Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Feb 78 p 4-A PA

[Editorial: "The Trojan Horse"]

[Text] In the final, decisive stage of concluding a new treaty between the United States and Panama, the sincerity of the people who live in permanent contact with the reality of the canal--the Panamanians and the recalcitrant residents of the strip along the waterway whom the world long ago baptized pejoratively "Zonians"--is being put to the test.

This sincerity is the measure of the moral stature with which each of those groups looks upon the canal as a waterway for world traffic, as a commercial resource, as an integral part of the store of emotions that we humans carry inside us if we hope to be different from inanimate objects and from animals ranging from infusorians to anthropoids.

In this final test, at this hour of truth, impatience, fear, ambition and the desire to perpetuate undeserved benefits are the poorest counselors and lead inexorably to the limits of desperation.

It must be noted that we Panamanians have behaved in a manner consonant with the present historical circumstance. Despite the fact that we are on the verge of an election that will have a decisive impact on the domestic front, a majority of the people remain united in favor of the new treaty. But above all, at no time has any native of this country even considered the idea of causing the slightest damage to the canal structures, or in any way hindering the canal's operation, administration and defense. We have taken a position. We have set a deadline. We know that we have a commitment and a responsibility to the users of the canal, and in consonance with that commitment, we are maintaining an emotional climate of complete calm, which is the best attribute of all decisions that are truly firm.

Much to the contrary, the "Zonians" have maintained their boundless determination to perpetuate the privileges they hold today, despite the decisions of their government and also, as we are seeing, regardless of any decision that may be adopted by the Senate of their own country.

The Zonians, without the moral strength that comes from being right, have already made various preparations, which range from strikes to the paralyzation of canal activities by faking illness and carrying out other subterfuges to which no one who deems himself halfway respectable would resort.

It must be noted that so far the good sense of the majority has been able to restrain the impulses of the desperate who now seem to have decided to sing their swan song.

However, in any case, they have shown that across the Avenue of the Martyrs lies the real danger to the Panama Canal: They are the real Trojan horses within, at the foot of and on top of the installation which is of interest to the world and which benefits the world as much as, or more than, it benefits Panamanians.

LA ESTRELLA HOPES GOOD SENSE PREVAILS ON TREATY ISSUE

PA181743Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Feb 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Contradictory Opinions on the Treaties"]

[Text] When the jurists of different countries read and analyze the Torrijos-Carter treaties on the Panama Canal from the viewpoint of contemporary international law and the circumstances under which they were drawn up--without neglecting the historical background and the importance of the waterway--they will surely reach the conclusion that the text of those documents is exactly what it should be, nothing more or less. The fact is that our country is in no condition or position to extract from the United States a different treaty, which would immediately and fully satisfy our desires, no matter how legitimate these desires are. Neither could the United States, on the other hand, expect the Panamanian people to accept less than they did.

As with every treaty concluded after a negotiating process conducted freely by the parties involved, without pressure of any kind, the final text which is in the hands of the U.S. Senate had to be the product of a consensus which could be reached only by a mentality not restricted solely to national interests.

A certain number of Panamanians, including a group of distinguished lawyers, feel that the treaties have many defects which, in short, have resulted in excessive concessions to the United States. And at the same time, several U.S. Senators are alarmed by the same text and intend to fight its ratification because, in their opinion, too many concessions were made to Panama.

Actually, it was to be expected that the balanced solution obtained--conciliating Panamanian and U.S. viewpoints and interests--would arouse negative reactions in both nations. The North Americans who favor the status quo, who simplistically consider they should not give up anything they have--even though it was not properly obtained--are unhappy at the prospect of losing many things even though they retain others. But at the same time, on the Panamanian side there are those who oppose any treaty which did not call for the immediate departure of any U.S. presence in our territory and the surrender of the canal and its installations as soon as possible.

We fully expect that good sense and equanimity will prevail in the U.S. Senate to persuade its members of the need and wisdom of ratifying, without any amendments, the text of the treaties submitted for their consideration.

COMMENTARY ON OPPOSITION POLITICAL COALITION

PA17335Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Commentary by Televisora Nacional news director Mario Velasquez]

[Text] We stated yesterday that the main purpose of the Miami meeting was to unite all the opposition forces around a series of political positions and objectives to face the present government. This main objective was apparently frustrated as a result of the absence of the Liberal Party.

It would have been difficult for the Liberals in Miami. It appears that it is true that the Liberals did participate in preliminary meetings concerning the organization of the Miami meeting, but they later changed their position and canceled their trip to Coral Gables. The Liberal presence in Miami would have meant for that political group the same thing that the Miami meeting meant for those who did participate in it: the linking of their political life to that of Dr Arnulfo Arias, who because of his personality and the popular support he has, will lead the parties and organizations whose representatives went to Miami.

The Liberals, with evident good judgment, chose to remain alone while affirming their opposition to the government and reiterating their support of the treaties and their position of being always open to any alternative, thus giving themselves much more political room in which to maneuver.

Dr Arnulfo Arias must have regretted the absence of the Liberal Party since the presence in Miami of this political group would have meant not only the union or tactical alliance of the two most important political forces in the opposition, but also--in the personal sphere--it would have represented the historic vindication of the Panamenist Caudillo who has been constantly fought by the Liberals for the past 30 years.

For David Samudio, in particular, this meeting with the Panamenist Party would have been something very difficult to do. It appears that the Liberal Party boss cannot swallow the idea of sitting with Dr Arias at the same table. Samudio would rather work on other alternatives.

However the capacity to maneuver of an able and experienced politician such as Samudio should not be underestimated. After all, politics is, among other things, the science of the impossible and, in this regard, it is politically possible that life-long adversaries may unite to confront a common adversary, especially if they find all the doors closed and they feel cornered.

At the end of 1967, when the presidential nominations were being made, the government in power then committed the huge mistake of estimating that a group of political parties that did not approve of the government's candidate would remain at the side of the government despite everything and would not look to Dr Arias as a candidate since those parties and their party leaders had been political and personal adversaries of the Panamenist leader.

The strategists of that government were wrong. Politicians who had been personal adversaries of Dr Arias went to his Arco Iris Farm in Boquete and offered him their support, making him the candidate of a powerful opposition coalition that achieved a resounding victory in the elections of May 1968.

We are saying this to establish that while David Samudio's Liberals did not go to Miami on this occasion, the alternatives and political opportunities that the government may or may not offer in the next few weeks could determine the future decisions of the Liberal Party.

The Liberal Party is waiting for a political opening that should materialize itself in the legalization of parties. The Liberals would rather take their own chances concerning the government to achieve gradual and sustained return to greater democratic representation in the government than to join a political group, like the one in Miami, which is under the leadership of Dr Arnulfo Arias.

However, what is happening is that so far the government has not clearly established its plans regarding the legalization of political parties. Everything indicates, however, that the August elections will be carried out under the same system that was in effect 6 years ago. In some government sectors there is a very strong resistance to any effort that would facilitate the return of political parties. This resistance is most noticeable among the civilian components of the government.

If the government finally adopts this road and the political parties are not legalized, the proelections and conciliation stand of the Liberal Party, a stand which I believe Samudio himself has taken, will be overcome by those who are calling for unity with the opposition--which would not give the present government the time of day.

In this event, a new Miami meeting would surely be attended by Liberal Party representatives and Panama's political history would then have to register in its pages which are full of accidents the fantastic scene of unity between the Panamanist and the Liberal parties, the two most important political forces that have bitterly fought for power in the country for the past 38 years.

SAMUDIO COMMENTS ON ABSENCE FROM MIAMI MEETING

PA171627Y Panama City Radio MIA Network in Spanish 1224 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Ramon Pereira interview with David Samudio, president of Liberal Party, on 16 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] David Samudio, because you did not attend the meeting of political groups in Miami, there have been several comments from the public. We felt that it would be worthwhile to address the subject so that you could explain why you did not attend the meeting.

[Answer] With pleasure. The Liberal Party received the invitation to attend the meeting in which we would discuss matters of national interest. The Liberal Party established, as a basic condition, that at that meeting there would be no discussion that would interfere with the approval of the treaties signed between Panama and [changes sentence] between President Carter and General Torrijos, since the Liberal Party, as approved by the national directorate of the party, had recommended a vote in favor of the treaties during the plebiscite. The vote in favor of the treaties is due to the fact that the Liberal Party believes that the relations between Panama and the United States should be normalized and, for this reason, we cannot agree to sit at any table to discuss anything related to the treaties since it was definitely decided to recommend their approval.

In all our talks with the U.S. senators who came to Panama, the top leaders of the Liberal Party who attended the various meetings with the senators maintained that it was necessary for the treaties to be approved. For this reason, we agreed that at the Miami meeting we would discuss a struggle for the return of political exiles, for the existence of political parties and for the structural changes needed by the national constitution and the present laws of the republic in order to discard what has been ineffective, and retain that which has given good results in the course of these 10 years of revolutionary government.

In addition, we would fight for freedom of the press and for protection of human rights. However, we would do this under the condition that there would be no discussion of the treaties. When we prepared the agenda along with the Christian Democratic Party, which first extended the invitation to us, and with the Panamenists, this was the position of the Liberal Party.

However, when the site of the meeting was changed to Miami, the discussion of the treaties by the U.S. Senate was moved forward unexpectedly.

In a manner that was not planned, this unexpectedly made the Senate discussion coincide with the Miami meeting, and the Liberal Party, which had maintained and continues to maintain the criterion that it cannot participate in any event which opposes the treaty, could not go to a meeting which undoubtedly would cause a reaction unfavorable to the treaties within the U.S. Senate. That is why the Liberal Party did not go to the Miami meeting.

[Question] Samudio, as a result of the position taken by the Liberal Party, there have been comments from the public and interested political groups have circulated the rumor that the position of the Liberal Party reflects its indirect support for the actions of the present government. What can you tell us in this regard?

[Answer] The Liberal Party has no links with the present government. The Liberal Party has been and continues to be a critic of the present government and it believes that the present government must carry out the reforms which we all demand. The communique issued by those who met in Miami more or less coincides with the declaration issued by the Liberal Party in favor of the struggle for human rights, the return of the exiles, constitutional reforms and so forth. We continue to hold this position.

[Question] Thank you, Samudio. Would you like to add anything else?

[Answer] All that I wish to add is that we will continue the struggle for the democratization of Panama. We do this patriotically, over and above political interests, because we have no vested interests of any kind. The Liberal Party wishes to serve the republic by making it possible for it to have a democratic structure, not only to resolve the serious problems which at present keep us in a very difficult situation, but also because it is absolutely necessary that there be a reorganization of the government to confront the serious responsibility which Panama must face when the treaties are approved.

[Question] Samudio, another question occurs to me. What will the position of the Liberal Party be with regard to the other political parties which are active at this time and with regard to the search for national unity, and perhaps with regard to the organization of a single front of political parties which would comment on or question the present government?

[Answer] If the questions seek the basic objective of establishing a democratic government, we will all be united because that is the position assumed by the national directorate of the Liberal Party. We have nothing against any political party. The only thing we desire is that the goal which we set for ourselves be the democratization of the country.

COSTA RICA

ELECTORAL COURT ANNOUNCES FINAL RESULTS

PA181748Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] We are transmitting directly from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, where the final official, nationwide tally of votes for president and vice president was just announced. The official figures are:

Unity Party	419,824
National Liberation Party	364,285
United People's Party	22,740

These are the two [as heard] majority parties according to the final figures the Supreme Electoral Tribunal has released.

As for the persons who did not vote, the total was 197,999. This is the result, or, in other words, the figures of absenteeism, which was approximately 19 percent. Total votes cast were 860,206. Blank votes were 5,374, null votes 23,641 and valid votes 831,141. [figures as heard]

This is the final official tally which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will announce on Wednesday at 1000 to President-elect Rodrigo Carazo Odio, who will also present credentials to the voice presidents following the Supreme Electoral Tribunal session at 1000.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM NEW ORLEANS CONFERENCE

PA201604Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1438 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero returned early this morning to this capital after a 4-day visit to New Orleans. Romero, together with other outstanding personalities, attended the third annual Central American conference.

On his arrival here, President Romero said that his trip will bring good results and that he was satisfied with what he and his retinue, composed of 59 persons, had accomplished. He said that businessmen from New Orleans and Atlanta will be coming to El Salvador in the next few days to contact businessmen here.

President Romero said that Terence Todman, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, saw that the Salvadoran visitors were well received. Todman delivered a speech in New Orleans in which he commented favorably on Central American governments. He admitted, according to President Romero, that Central America has internal problems which "its own governments and friendly nations must solve." President Romero said that Central America is satisfied with Todman's statements, which deserve special attention.

WAVE OF FIRES CONTINUES IN SAN SALVADOR

PA181924Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The series of fires announced in advance is continuing. Telephone calls announcing fires in well-known businesses in the downtown area of San Salvador have resumed. Last night no less than six businesses were set on fire. The owners of the buildings were informed that the fires would occur.

So far, urban and rural security forces have been unable to check this wave of arson, which threatens to change the face of San Salvador by force. To date, 60 businesses have been set on fire by criminal acts. According to announcements made this morning, there is more to come, since telephone calls have been received in the area of south 11th Avenue and 4th Street.

GUATEMALA

PERALTA MENDEZ THREATENS 'CIVIL WAR' IF ELECTION RIGGED

PA172244Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1848 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Brig Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, Christian Democratic Party presidential hopeful in Guatemala, today threatened to start a "civil war" if the 5 March elections are rigged. Peralta Mendez, like the other two candidates, Gen Romeo Lucas and Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, is "fully convinced that he is going to win."

In an interview with the morning newspaper EL GRAFICO, he said he hopes that "those who rule will have enough sense not to rig the elections, because the people are not in the mood to lose. This would entail civil strife." He added that he is "capable of defending the people's victory of 5 March, and I am determined to do so."

Together with other leaders of the party that nominated him, Peralta Mendez rendered some "evidence" which, according to them, proves that "the government is planning to rig the elections in favor of Gen Lucas Garcia."

The Anticommunist Liberation movement that nominated Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia has also reported the "conspiracy." It stated its intention "to defend the victory by whatever means."

The evidence supplied by the two parties now in opposition to the unity front composed of the centrist Democratic Institutional and Revolutionary parties includes ballots and even duplicate electoral identification cards.

So far there has been no official reaction to the charges, nor have there been any comments about talk of a "civil war" that is increasingly being heard among the political groups, and especially among the people, in view of the aggressiveness shown by the three groups that are vying for power.

Parties Foresee Fraud

PA181500Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Political parties which are participating in the electoral campaign have charged that fraud will be committed. The Christian Democratic Party, an opposition party which is promoting the presidential candidacy of Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, has said that fraud will be committed in the coming elections and that this may bring the country to civil war.

The National Liberation Movement, formerly of the government and now an opposition party whose candidate is Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, has also said through its leader, Mario Sandoval Alarcon, present vice president of the republic, that preparations are underway to perpetuate fraud on behalf of Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas, who is considered to be the government candidate.

The Revolutionary Party and the Democratic Institutional Party, through their presidential candidate, Dr Francisco Villagran, have rejected the charge that they are progovernment along with Lucas Garcia, saying that the maneuvers by which the electoral fraud is to be committed are being planned within the Electoral Registry, which is directed by Arturo Maldonado de la Cerda, a member of the National Liberation Movement.

This series of reciprocal attacks, just 14 days before the elections, is heating up the electoral process. Therefore, leaders should act with caution to avoid the recurrence of regrettable incidents. However, apathy and indifference persist, despite the appeals launched even by religious leaders, who have urged the people to vote.

FOREIGN MINISTER WARNS CARIBBEAN STATES ON BELIZE

PA171637Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Feb (AFP)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Grantes said today that intervention by Caribbean countries in support of Belize's demands for independence "might affect the negotiations" being conducted on the topic. Molina Grantes was referring to next week's meeting in Belize of foreign ministers of Caribbean countries who have become independent from Great Britain.

"The Belize problem is exclusively between Guatemala and Great Britain," the Guatemalan foreign minister emphasized, pointing out that the British Government will consult with the Belizean people on any decision. However, he warned that other countries which have defined political interests should not influence Belize's future.

The Guatemalan foreign minister repeated the statement that negotiations between the Guatemalan and British governments "will possibly resume this month" and that "any solution will be submitted to Guatemalans for their consideration."

NICARAGUA

FSLN SAYS WEAPONS COME FROM U.S., NATIONAL GUARD

PA191349Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1208 GMT 19 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 19 Feb (LATIN)--In a television interview aired in this capital last night, the self-styled Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) disclosed that it is purchasing modern weapons in the United States for "a total insurrection against the regime" of Anastasio Somoza. Two persons wearing stockings over their faces who were identified as "the political and military attaches of the front" also said that "the next step to be taken by the front will be the distribution of between 1,500 and 2,000 weapons among the people."

"We have people who purchase weapons in the United States," one of the guerrillas said when Ramos asked where the FSLN obtains its modern weapons. "We are modernizing our army. We have M-16 rifles and PAL-162 heavy machineguns [as received] and grenades," said the two individuals, who were carrying machineguns.

The guerrillas also said that they were acquiring weapons from the Nicaraguan Army itself. "Somoza had bought 5,000 M-16 rifles and 5 million rounds and we are acquiring this war material from the army itself," they said. They added that "the support given us by the Nicaraguan people has made it possible for us to survive under the Somoza repression." They mentioned that "the son of a Nicaraguan millionaire has just given us half a million cordobas (some \$70,000)." Referring to reports of the alleged contracting of "U.S. mercenaries," the guerrillas said, "we have hit Somoza where it hurts most. That is why the Somoza army cannot stand up to the front and must contract the services of U.S. advisers."

SOVIET AIR MARSHAL YEFIMOV ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL180138Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] An official Soviet delegation headed by Air Marshal Aleksandr N. Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces, has arrived in our country at the invitation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Ministry to participate in commemorative activities for the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The distinguished visitor and his entourage were received at Jose Marti International Airport by Division Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and of the Council of State and first vice minister-chief of the FAR General Staff.

The official Soviet delegation includes Col Gen (Dmitriy A. Kruskiv) and Col Guivi P. Ordzhonikidze, military, naval and air attache of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba.

Division Gen Francisco Cabrera Conzalez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and vice minister-chief of the Revolutionary Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense [DAAFAR]; Col Demetrio Montseri Villa, chief of the FAR Ministry Foreign Relations Directorate; Lt Gen Sergey Krivoplyasov, chief of the Soviet military specialists in our country; and USSR Ambassador to Cuba Nikita P. Tolubeyev also were present at the welcoming ceremony in the airport.

Immediately following their arrival, Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces, and his entourage went to the mausoleum containing the remains of Liberation Army Lt Gen Antonio Maceo y Grajales where they laid a floral wreath.

Following this solemn ceremony, the official Soviet delegation invited to the commemorative activities for the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces was briefed on Maceo's military feats. The historical briefing was given by Maj Alfredo Darma Rivero of the FAR Central Political Directorate.

Received by Fidel, Raul

FL181644Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army Gen Raul Castro have met in Havana with Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces and twice hero of the Soviet Union, who arrived in our country yesterday at the head of a military delegation.

Col Gen (Dmitriy Kruskiv) and Col Guivi Ordzhonikidze, military, naval and air attache of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, participated in the meeting. They are part of their country's official delegation that will participate in commemorative activities for the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces. Division Generals Senen Casas Regueiro and Francisco Cabrera and Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Nikita Tolubeyev also participated in the meeting.

Visits Isle of Pines

FL201743Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Soviet military delegation headed by Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces, has arrived in the Isle of Pines to visit places of historic interest.

The visitors were received at the Nueva Gerona airport by Isle of Pines PCC First Secretary Arturo Linco, Municipal People's Government Assembly Chairman Roberto Oquendo and Military Region Commander Col Ramon Valle Lazo.

The Soviet military delegation was accompanied by Division Gen Francisco Cabrera Gonzalez, deputy minister-chief of the Revolutionary Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense and alternate member of the PCC Central Committee. The military delegation has visited the museum at the former Modelo prison where our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and other attackers of the Moncada Barracks were confined. It also visited the Jose Maceo [as heard] rural preuniversity school in the Isle of Pines.

CASAS REGUEIRO HEADS FAR DELEGATION TO USSR

FL182011Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Division Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and first deputy minister-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--General Staff, left today for the Soviet Union at the head of the official FAR delegation that will attend ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC Central Committee second secretary and FAR minister, was at the airport to see the delegation off. Also at the airport were Division Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra, PCC Central Committee member and FAR vice minister; Col Demetrio Montseny Villa, chief of the FAR Ministry Foreign Relations Directorate; USSR Ambassador to Cuba Nikita Tolubeyev; Lt Gen Sergey Krivoplyasov, chief of the Soviet military specialists working in our country; and Col Guivi P. Ordzhonikidze, military, navy and air attache at the USSR Embassy in our country.

The delegation headed by the first deputy minister-chief of the FAR General Staff includes Brig Gen Ulises Rosales del Toro, Central Committee member, and Col Jorge Suarez Lorenzo.

ACTIVITIES OF VISITING PARAGUAYAN COMMUNISTS REPORTED

Visit Cienfuegos Areas

FL172050Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP] delegation headed by PCP Chairman Antonio Maidana has visited the city of Cienfuegos. During its stay in that southern city, the delegation visited the O'Bourke industrial zone and the Espartaco sugar mill installations. The visitors were accompanied by Cienfuegos Province PCC First Secretary Humberto Miguel Fernandez and other members of the Provincial PCC Bureau.

Maidana, accompanied by [members of his delegation] Julio Rojas and Alfredo Alcorta, first visited the mill's bulk sugar receiving area where he was welcomed by its director, Tomas Castro. Thereafter, they toured the Espartaco sugar mill accompanied also by PCC Central Committee America Department official Arsenio Rodriguez, PCP representative in Cuba Rogelio Gonzalez and Felipe Velasquez, member of the National Directorate of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

Arrive in Santiago de Cuba

FL180024Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP] delegation headed by Chairman Antonio Maidana arrived this afternoon in Santiago de Cuba accompanied by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, PCC Central Committee Politburo member and Council of State vice president. PCC Central Committee member Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, Santiago de Cuba party first secretary, welcomed the PCP chairman and Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, members of that fraternal party's Central Committee, at the Antonio Maceo international airport.

Following their arrival in the cradle of the revolution, accompanied by Jose Ramon Balaguer, the PCP delegation laid a floral wreath at Jose Marti's tomb at the Santa Efigenia Cemetery of Santiago de Cuba. Afterward, Antonio Maidana and his entourage toured the modern Jose Marti urban district of this city.

Hold Press Conference

FL202058Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP] Chairman Antonio Maidana and PCP Central Committee members Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas have held a press conference at Cubanacan Protocol Hall in Havana. At the conference with national and foreign reporters, the PCP leaders discussed various topics relating the current situation in their country. Maidana, in answer to a question, labeled as farcial the recent election for the continuance of the Alfredo Stroessner regime, organized to simulate alleged legality in the country. He stated that, in the past, Stroessner renewed the permanent state of siege on 94 occasions. The Paraguayan jails remain full of political prisoners, many of them with 14, 15 or more years spent in dungeons. Antonio Maidana stated that in Paraguay two laws exist, enacted by the regime, establishing jail sentences of 6 or more years for simply belonging to the Communist Party.

Maidana, Alcorta and Rojas pointed out that Paraguayan political parties, people's organizations and even the church are equally opposed to the regime. They said that a PCP declaration is directed toward forming a single united opposition front to fight until the Stroessner dictatorship is overthrown, paving the way for the formation of a democratic and anti-imperialist government. They stressed the need to intensify the international campaign of solidarity to achieve the freedom of the thousands of political prisoners, whose lives are in danger in the jails of Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile and other countries on the continent.

Antonio Maidana stated that the celebration of the 11th [World Youth and Students] festival in Cuba can be a propitious event to further pressure by the solidarity movement to demand that the Latin American regimes release the thousands of patriotic combatants in solitary confinement, torture and the most cruel repression. The PCP leaders reiterated that their freedom, following 19 years of incarceration, was the result of the broad international solidarity movement headed primarily by the socialist community.

Antonio Maidana, Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas expressed their thanks for the display of friendship and warm greeting given them by the Cuban people, government and the PCC. They stated that they have been deeply impressed by their stay in our country because of the existing economic, social and cultural transformations, but above all because they have seen a militant, conscientious and firm people building their future. The three PCP leaders added that they were impressed by the people united with their party and Fidel, their firmness in facing imperialism on any ground, and the consciousness of the Cuban people to offer their internationalist help to whoever is struggling for their liberation.

Decorated By Fidel

FL211312Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, PCC first secretary and Council of State president, last night awarded Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP] Chairman Antonio Maidana the Playa Giron national order. The maximum leader of the Cuban revolution also awarded Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, PCP Central Committee members, with the 20th Anniversary commemorative medals. Attending the ceremony at Cubanacan Protocol Hall were Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC second secretary, Ramiro Valdes, Guillermo Garcia, Blas Roca, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Jose Machado Ventura, all PCC Politburo members. Also present at the ceremony were other Central Committee members and political and mass organizations representatives.

Upon receiving the award, Maidana stated that the Playa Giron order is a brilliant example of what people can accomplish when they struggle united in their desire to win. He reiterated his satisfaction and that of his companions with their visit to Cuba and stated that Latin America has, in Cuba, the first country on the continent to eliminate man's exploitation of man, unemployment, illiteracy and to build victoriously a new society, the socialist society.

HAVANA TO HOST MEETING OF SOCIALIST PARLIAMENT MEMBERS

FL171550Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1518 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Excerpt] A consultative meeting of heads of socialist parliamentary groups will begin in Havana on Tuesday. Milko Tarabanov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chief of his country's delegation to the meeting, has arrived in Havana. He was received by Raul Roa, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and president of the Cuban parliamentary group.

Socialist Delegations Arrive

FL182350Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2302 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Today at the Jose Marti international airport, PCC Central Committee and Council of State member Raul Roa, vice president of the National People's Government Assembly, received delegations from several countries invited here by our highest governing body. Among the delegations are those from the CSSR, the GDR and the Hungarian People's Republic. In the next few hours delegations from the USSR and the Mongolian People's Republic will arrive. Already in our country are delegations from the DPRK and the Romanian People's Republic. Jose Aranaburo Garcia, secretary of the National People's Government Assembly, and other deputies and officials from this governing body also welcomed the invited delegations at the Jose Marti airport.

Blas Roca Meets Germans, Laotians

FL211240Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Today PCC Politburo Member Blas Roca Calderio, National People's Government Assembly president, received the GDR delegation headed by Herbert Fechner, deputy to the People's Chamber, chairman of the parliamentary group and member of the Inter-parliamentary Council.

The National People's Government Assembly president also received the Lao People's Democratic Republic delegation, headed by Namlasa Simoi, permanent member of the Supreme People's Council. Both delegations will be participating in the consultative meeting of the chairmen of socialist parliamentary groups which begins tomorrow in Havana.

Blas Roca To Open Meeting

FL211314Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Blas Roca, National People's Government Assembly president, today will make the opening remarks at the consultative meeting of chairmen of socialist parliamentary groups. The president of the highest Cuban state organization said the event, which will be meeting through 23 February at the Habana Libre Hotel in Havana, will be highly profitable.

Blas Roca considered the frequent contacts between representatives of socialist assemblies and chambers to be valuable. The Cuban delegation will be headed by Raul K. a, National People's Government Assembly vice president, and includes Jose Aranaburo, Aleida March, Faustino Perez and Lourdes Urrutia.

BULGARIAN DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES

FL201640Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, first deputy defense minister, chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army and member of the Central Committee of that fraternal country's Communist Party, arrived in Cuba on Saturday on a friendly visit. Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev has come in response to an invitation of Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR.

He was welcomed at Jose Marti international airport by Division Generals Abelardo Colome Ibarra and Rigoberto Garcia and Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado, all of them members of the PCC Central Committee and vice ministers of the FAR.

Visits Isle of Pines

FL202024Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2011 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, first deputy defense minister, chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff and member of the Central Committee of that fraternal country's Communist Party, has arrived at the Isle of Pines airport. The Bulgarian delegation is accompanied by Div Gen Rigoberto Garcia, vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) and member of the PCC Central Committee; Maj Gen (Bruno Perkov), army, naval and air attache of the Bulgarian Embassy in Cuba; and Col Demetrio Montseny.

The visitors were received by Arturo Lince Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and PCC first secretary in that special municipality.

The high-ranking Bulgarian official and his entourage have visited the museum of the revolution located in the former Modelo prison and Nueva Gerona's urban and industrial development.

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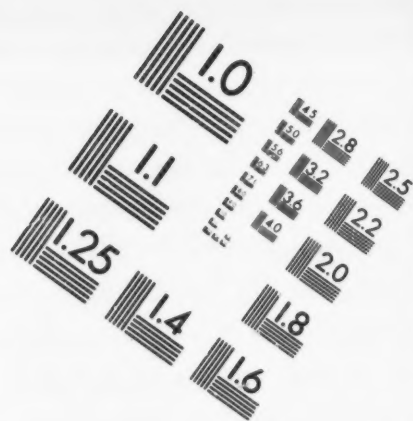
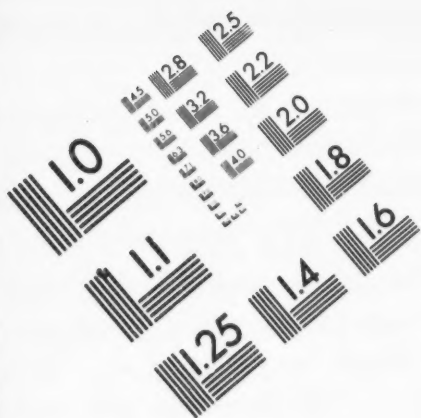
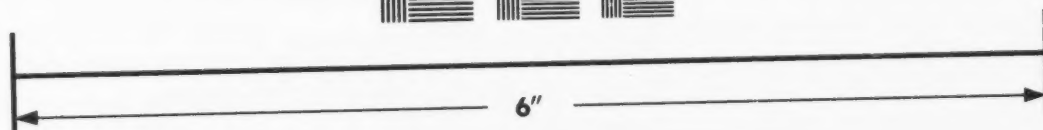
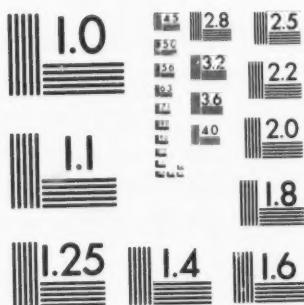


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